



# HOLIDAY TREE FIRE SAFETY TIPS

A cut tree is like a cut flower – neither will last very long without water. A Holiday tree purchased from a lot, or cut on a tree farm, can remain relatively fire resistant if you follow these simple steps:



■ **RECUT THE TRUNK** at least one inch above the old cut as soon as you get it home. This removes the scarred tissue of the old cut and opens up the tree's veins allowing it to continue to pull moisture into its foliage.

■ **KEEP THE FRESH CUT END OF THE TRUNK IN WATER.** Moisture is the key to keeping the tree fresh and thereby enhancing its fire resistance. Put the tree in water immediately after it is recut. Even if the tree won't be set up in the house for a few days, stand it in a bucket of water outside until you are ready to bring it indoors.

■ **CLEAN THE STAND.** Before mounting the tree in a sturdy stand (appropriate for the size of tree), rinse the stand's water reservoir with a capful of bleach mixed in water. This reduces the growth of organisms that can block the tree's intake of water.

■ **LOCATE THE TREE AWAY FROM THE SOURCES OF HEAT.** Avoid placing the tree near a heater outlet, wood stove or fireplace. Put it in the coolest location possible. Never leave a lighted tree unattended, and turn down the room heat at night.

**Caution:** Be careful not to block a door with the tree or rearranged furniture.

■ **CHECK THE WATER LEVEL IN THE STAND DAILY.** Never let the water level go below the bottom of the trunk. Lukewarm water will be taken up by the tree more readily than cold water. Commercial floral preservatives can also be added to the water to help maintain the tree's freshness.

■ **CAREFULLY CONTROL LIGHTS ON THE TREE.** Standard-size holiday tree lights generate heat, which accelerate the rate of drying. The use of miniature lights produces substantially less heat and thereby reduces the drying affect on the tree. Do not leave lights turned on for prolonged periods. Always turn lights off when leaving the house or retiring for the night.  
**Caution:** Electrical wiring deteriorates with age. Always check light sets for frayed or cracked wires and broken sockets **BEFORE** placing them on the tree. **Do not attempt to repair a worn light set!** Throw it away and purchase a new replacement.

■ **REMOVE THE TREE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.** Even a properly cared for cut tree will continue to dry out from the effects of a home's environment. Remove it from the house immediately after the holidays, cut and bundle it. Take it to a recycle center or leave for your refuse collector. **Caution:** NEVER burn a tree in a wood stove or fireplace. The rapid burning and excessive heat can damage the firebox and chimney creating a serious fire hazard.



For More Safety Tips Visit:  
[www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

